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Samuel Abrams, comp. View Book of the
City of Champaign and the University
of Illinois.
(ca. 1914)

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Illinois Historical Survey



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VIEW BOOK
OF THE
CITY OF CHAMPAIGN
AND THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Introduction

TODAY men must gather in cities because these are times of centralization and specialization. But if a city is to be desirable for those who are to live in it, it must be a city of the future as well as of the present; it must be a city of prosperity and of progress, of homes and of culture---aggressive, well-governed, and sanely progressive.

Such a city is Champaign, Illinois. It is situated in the heart of the richest agricultural region of the world, in the granary of the Middle West. It is 128 miles south of Chicago, 118½ miles west of Indianapolis, and is within easy reach of a number of thriving towns. Champaign is the larger of the Twin Cities, Urbana and Champaign, whose combined population is 25,000.

A CITY OF PARKS AND HOMES


CHAMPAIGN is a city of homes. From the small and secluded to the palatial and magnificent, they all present a peaceful, prosperous, even a beautiful appearance; and as the homes are, so are the 85 miles of streets, of which 25 miles are paved. The city is lighted by a newly installed boulevard lighting system. Because it is a wise city of homes,




Champaign is also a city of trees and parks, whose three excellent public parks are supplemented by the park-like campus of the great University of Illinois.

The prairie, God's glorious garden, surrounds the city. Well-cultivated farms and orchards, streams and wood-patches, offer endless opportunities for recreation to those who become cramped in cities.

ABREAST OF THE TIMES

HAMPAIGN is maintained in a thoroughly modern, sanitary way. Water, Gas, electric light, city heat and street car service are furnished by well-controlled companies. For drainage there is the powerful assistance of natural conditions, for Champaign is located upon the ridge of a prominent water-shed. It has an efficient sewerage system and is furnished with an inexhaustible supply of excellent water. In all these things the city has the great essentials furnished by a healthful environment, and they are supplemented by a general cleanliness due to the strong civic pride of the community.

CULTURE AND EDUCATION

HE social and cultural activity of the community is indicated by the fact that many social organizations flourish. Among them are numbered a thriving Country Club, and all the important secret societies. Many of the latter own their homes and club houses. Drama, concert, and other entertainment is furnished by the excellent companies that play in Chicago and in other large cities of the state. In addition, the University of Illinois is constantly bringing in the most prominent intellectual people of the world of thought for the benefit of the University community, and to the lectures and addresses of these great men the people of Champaign are always welcome. The athletic activities of the university furnish events of interest that can be duplicated in but few cities in the country. Champaign furnishes entertainment and intellectual and social activity that cities of ten times its size cannot furnish.

THE UNIVERSITY AND THE SCHOOLS

INDEED, in matters of culture and education, Champaign is among the foremost cities of the country. This proud distinction is due in part to the influence of the University of Illinois, the third largest university in the United States in the number of students enrolled who have had entrance preparation required by Standard American colleges. The university, and its students and faculty expend annually a sum in excess of four million dollars in the Twin Cities. But apart from the influence of the university, the traditional elertness of the citizens of Champaign in all matters pertaining to the welfare and education of children has built a public school system unsurpassed in Illinois. The grade schools are efficiently superintended, large and comfortable, and well-distributed for the convenience of the children in all parts of the city. There are 74 teachers, including special teachers of music, drawing, domestic arts, manual training, and commercial subjects; and in no city high schools in the land has the child a better opportunity to become a trained, competent, useful man or woman. The citizens of Champaign have long believed in what is now hailed as a new theory, viz., that the schools should conform to the needs of the people.

A CITY OF PROSPERITY AND PROGRESS

THE strong civic pride, the great interest in future welfare, are in a large part due to the fact that a great part of the citizens own their homes. They are encouraged in this by the liberal terms upon which loans are made by the local building and loan associations, and by the six strong banks whose deposits amount to over \$3,000,000, and whose surplus is over \$775,000. This liberality of local capital has been an important factor in the general growth of business as well as in the upbuilding of the city. Values of real estate have always been increasing, although the city has never been "boomed". The growth has always been steady, sure, and healthy.

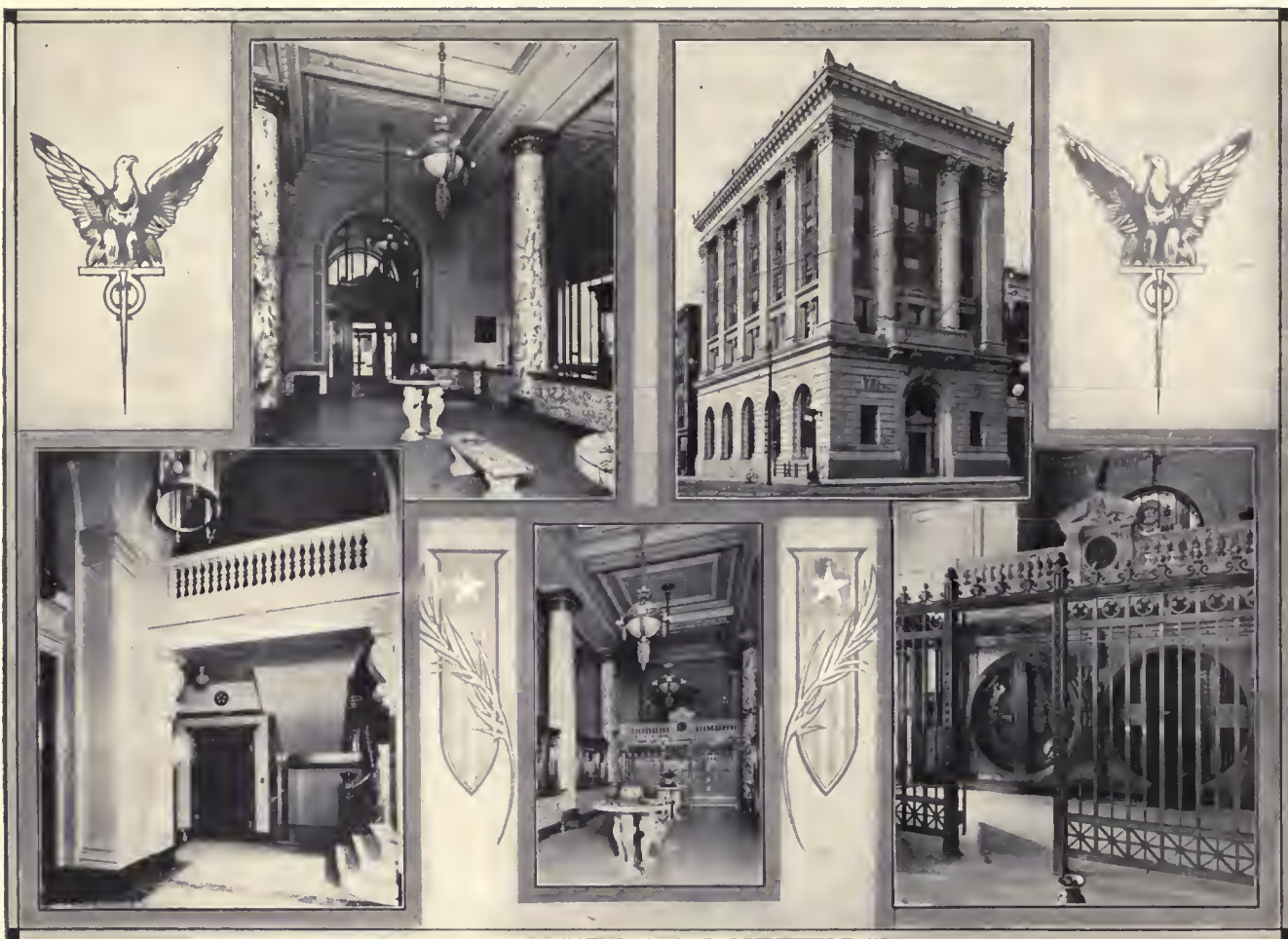
A GOOD FACTORY LOCATION

BESIDES being situated in the granary of the Middle West, Champaign is situated near one of the great coal fields of the world. Coal is cheap. The water supply is convenient and accessible. The Illinois Central, the New York Central, the Wabash, and the rapidly growing Illinois Traction System furnish railroad accommodations that few cities can equal. There are a number of large and thriving factories, but there have never been any labor troubles. In short, Champaign furnishes a Promised Land for manufacturing enterprises of the Middle West.

A CITY OF OPPORTUNITY

CHAMPAIGN is aggressive, progressive, prosperous. It is the wealthiest city in one of the wealthiest counties in the country. This wealth is due, in part, to the richness of the soil and to the mineral deposits of the neighborhood, but it is principally due to the industry, thrift, and progressive methods of the farmers and business men. Great as the possibilities of the past were, those of the future are greater. Employment is offered by the many departments of the University, by the stores and offices of the city, and by the factories and railroad shops---all of which pay good salaries to willing and efficient workers. Opportunities for a living and for the advancement of the individual are plentiful and excellent. In Champaign no efficient and industrious man lacks opportunity for the use of his money or ability. Champaign is a City of the Present---and the City of the Future.

The Chamber of Commerce has published this View Book because of the pride it feels in the progress and beauty of the city, and because it wishes to point out a growing modern city to those who contemplate moving to a city where the environment renders life more pleasant, and where opportunity renders labor and capital more profitable.





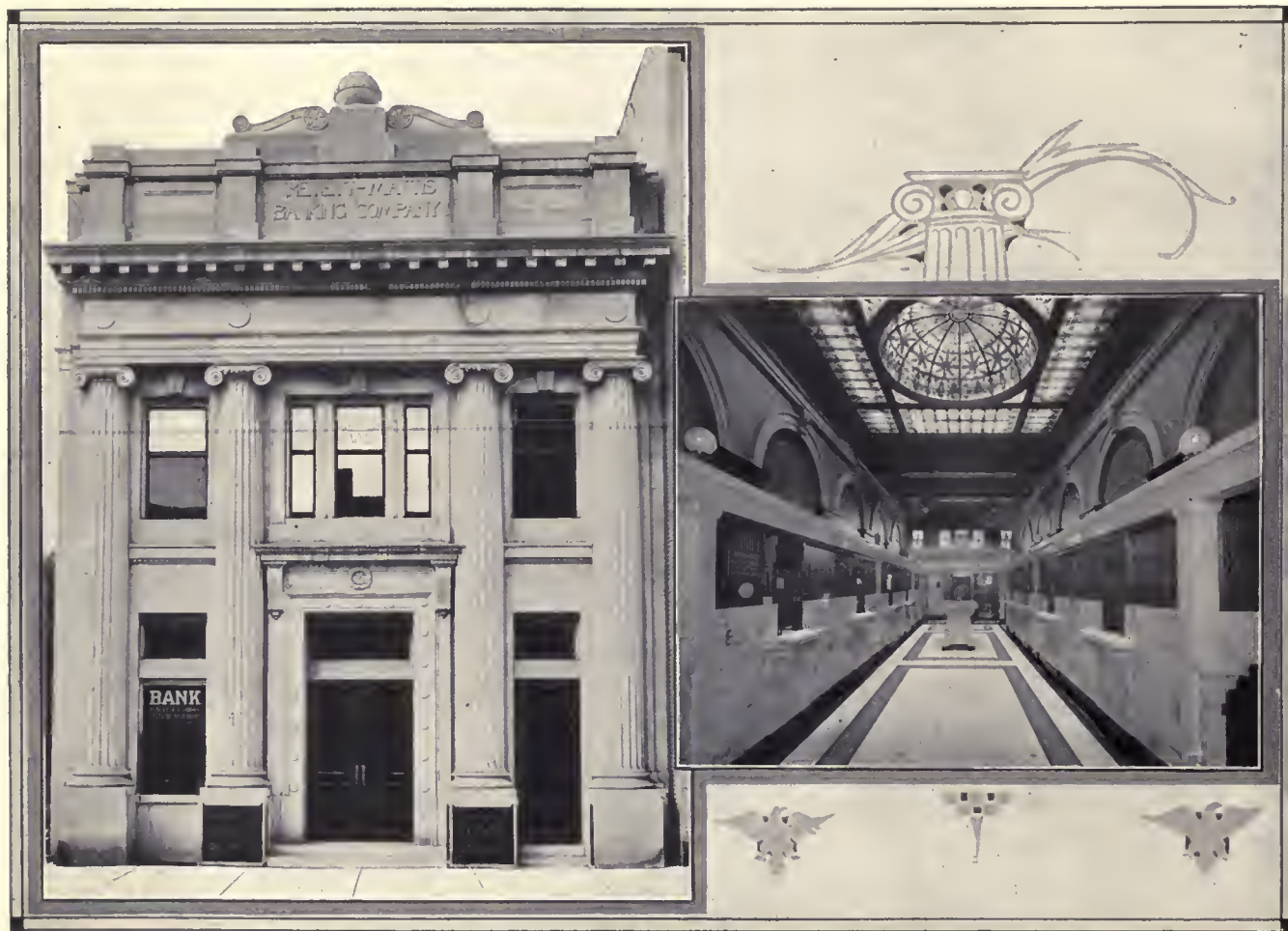
RAY, DOBBINS & DOBBINS
Law Offices
First National Bank Building

T. H. CRAIG
Jewelry
5 Main Street





W. LEWIS & Co.
Department Store
15-23 N. Neil St.





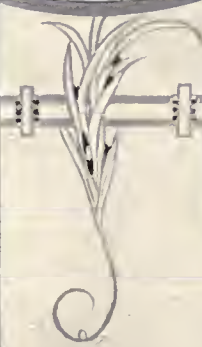
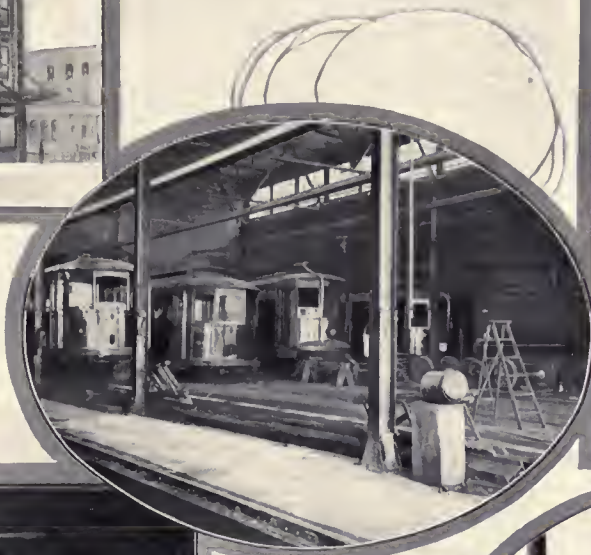
JOS. KUHN & CO.,
Men's and Boys' Clothiers
33-37 Main Street



Office

BROWN'S BUSINESS SCHOOL
Cor. Main and N. Neil Streets
School Room

Office Devices



Interurban Station
Power House Interior

U. & C. RAILWAY, GAS & ELECTRIC CO.
Car Barn

Power House
Gas Works





CHAMPAIGN NATIONAL BANK
13 W Main Street

ILLINOIS TITLE AND TRUST CO.
10 Main Street

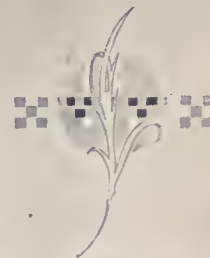




S. P. ATKINSON MONUMENT CO.
106 S. Neil Street

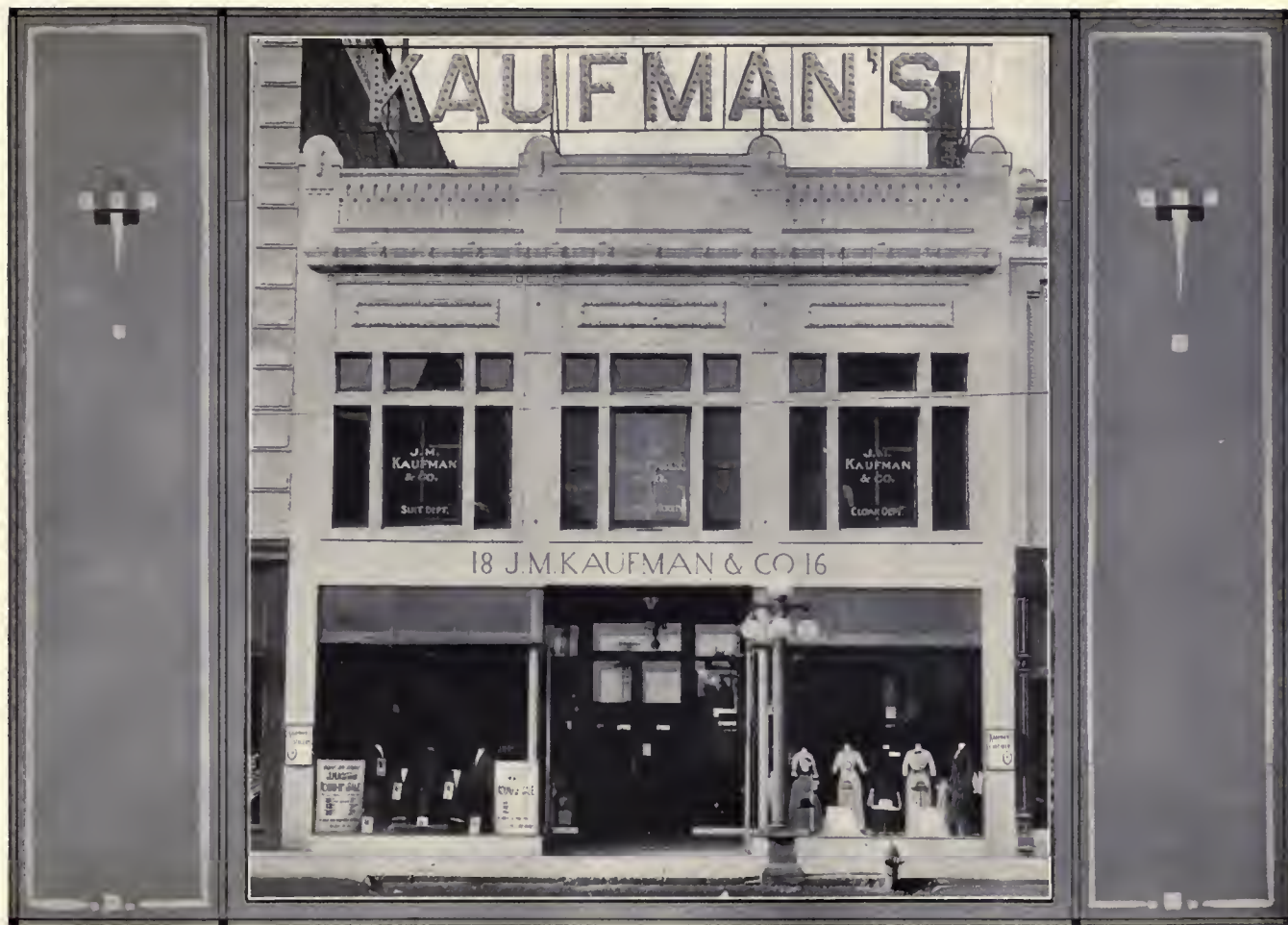


WM. PRICE ESTATE 16 N. Neil Street
HARRIS & MEAD, Confectioners
Makers of LaVogue Chocolates 608 E. Green Street



A. W. SPALDING, Shoes
19 Main Street





J. M. KAUFMAN & CO.
Men's, Women's and Boys' Outfitters
16-18 Main Street



EMPIRE STEAM LAUNDRY
103 W. University Avenue

PERCIVAL & MOOREHEAD
Furniture and Hardware
Corner Neil and University Avenue

L. K. HOWSE & CO.
Wholesale Fruits and Vegetables
56-58 Main Street



C. E. BONNER MFG. CO.
Tool Manufacturers



HOME TELEPHONE CO.
201 S. Neil Street



CHESTER TRANSFER CO.
58 First South Street



CUNNINGHAM BLOCK
U. of I. Supply Store, Green and Wright Streets



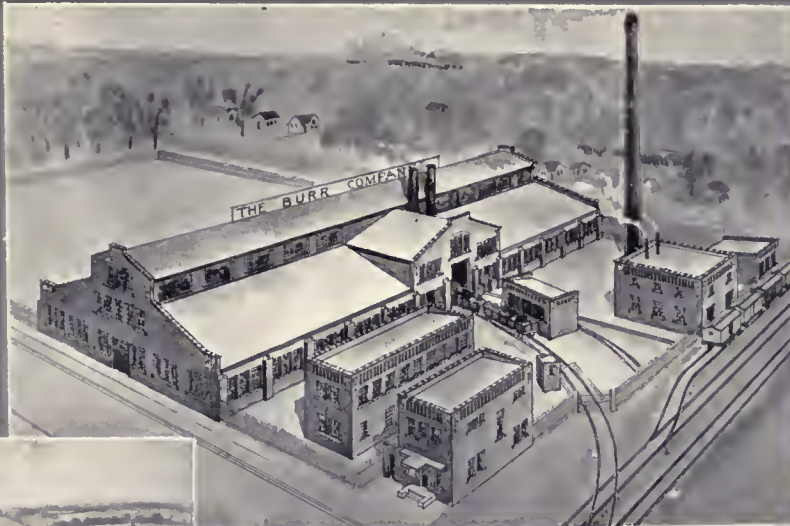


D. H. LLOYD
Books, Music
7 Main St.



MITTENDORF & KILER
FURNITURE
24-26 Main Street



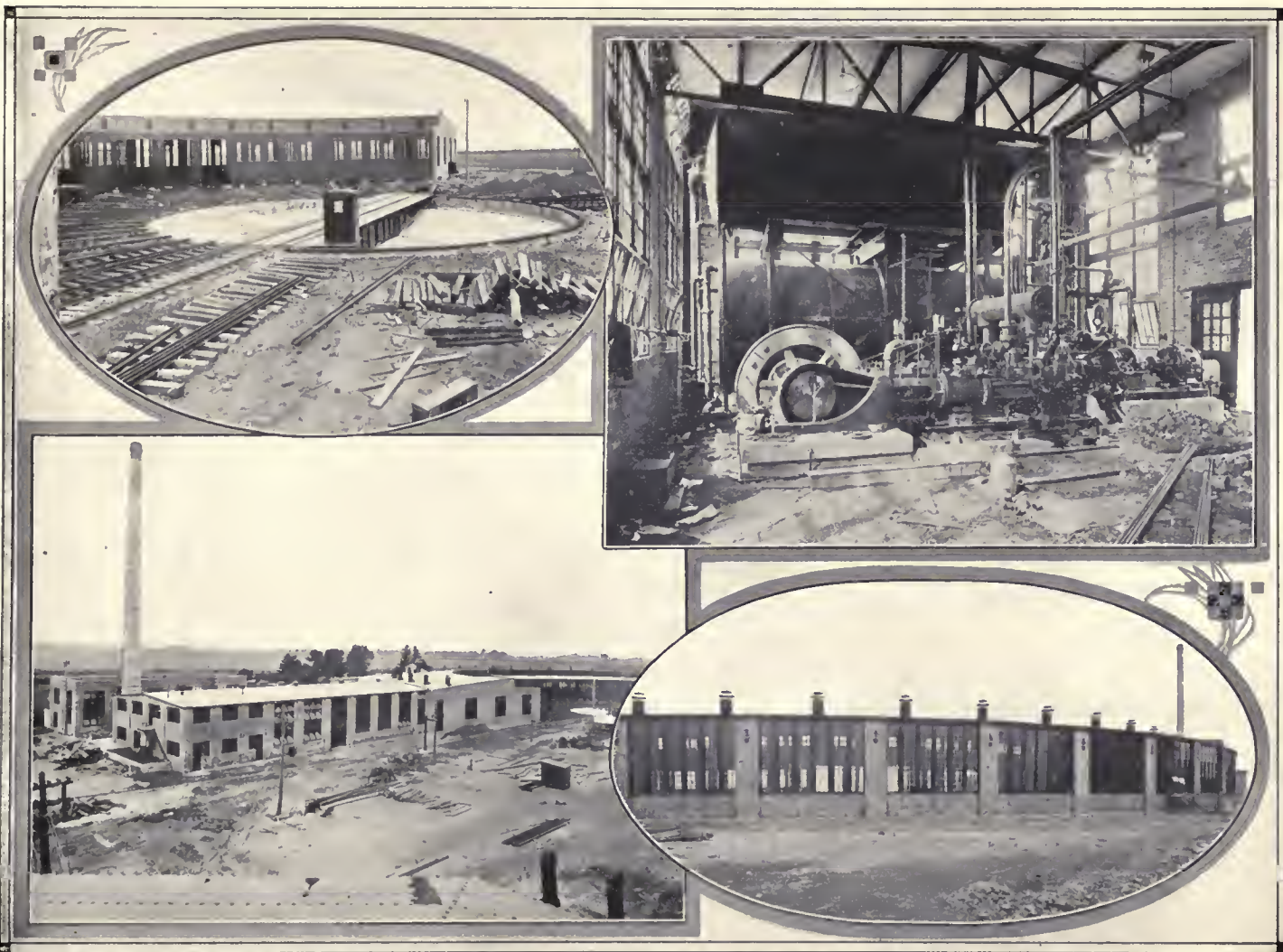


City Plant

THE BURR COMPANY
Structural Steel

North Works





ROUNDHOUSE, ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD

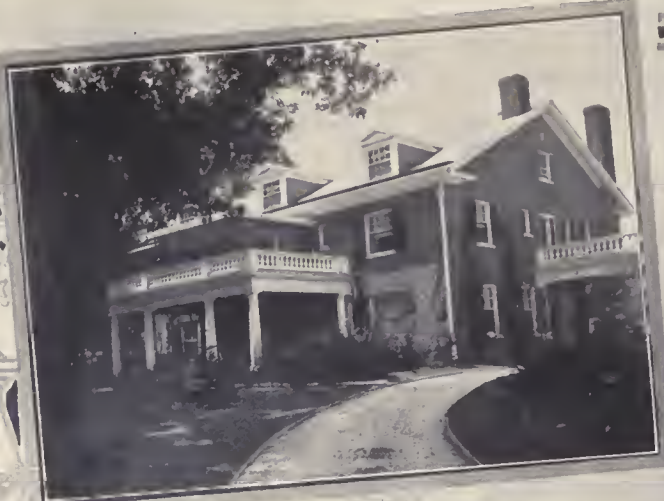


ILLINOIS MOTOR CAR SALES CO.
103 W. Hill Street

THE GAZETTE BUILDING
Neil and Hickory Streets



ALEXANDER LUMBER CO.
65 N. Walnut Street





B. F. HARRIS, JR., RESIDENCE
W. Church St. and Prospect Ave



H. H. HARRIS RESIDENCE
501 W. Church Street

N. M. HARRIS RESIDENCE
603 W. Church Street



J. W. STIPES RESIDENCE
711 W. University Ave.,





HENRY SWANNELL RESIDENCE
614 W. University Avenue





WOLF LEWIS RESIDENCE
615 W. University Ave.



C. E. BONNER RESIDENCE
702 W. University Ave.



JOSEPH KUIHN RESIDENCE
309 W. University Ave.



J. M. KAUFMAN RESIDENCE
704 W. University Ave.



DR. T. H. LEATHERS RESIDENCE
502 W. Springfield Ave.

MANFORD SAVAGE RESIDENCE
722 W. Church Street



DR. JULIA S. ROSS RESIDENCE
203 W. University Ave.
E. B. HAZEN RESIDENCE
617 W. University Ave.

R. S. BASSETT RESIDENCE
207 S. Elm Street
MRS. WM. PRICE RESIDENCE
613 W. University Ave.



HON. WM. B. McKINLEY RESIDENCE
728 W. University Ave.



F. B. VENNUM RESIDENCE
Davidson Place



ELM STREET

HILL STREET
DAVIDSON PLACE



E. GREEN STREET

WORKMEN'S COTTAGES
Bonner Addition



N. NEIL STREET
N. NEIL STREET

CITY BUILDING
E. GREEN STREET
A Block of University Business Stores





ELKS AUDITORIUM
REST ROOM
Chamber of Commerce



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



THE BURNHAM ATHENÆUM
Champaign Public Library
MASONIC TEMPLE





A LINE OF CHAMPAIGN PROSPERITY

COUNTRY CLUB HOUSE
WEST SIDE PARK





Avenue
Columbia

PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Lincoln
Gregory





St. John's (Evangelical)
St. John's (Catholic)

CHURCHES
George McKinley Memorial (Presbyterian)
First Presbyterian

Christian Science
First Methodist





SAMPLES OF FARMING AROUND CHAMPAIGN

The University of Illinois

IN the midst of the Twin-Cities, adding dignity, character and attractiveness to the surroundings, is the great State University of Illinois. The campus of 115 acres is now nearly covered with some thirty-three large buildings. Immediately adjoining is a farm of 640 acres that constitutes a great outdoor laboratory for the experiment station of the Agricultural College. The value of the plant is estimated at something over \$3,000,000.

The University includes the following colleges and schools: The Colleges of Literature and Arts, Science, Engineering, Agriculture, Law; the Schools of Music, Pharmacy, Education, School of Railway Engineering and Administration, Library School and Graduate School. Connected with the University and essentially a part of it are also the Agricultural Experiment Station, Engineering Experiment Station, State Laboratory of Natural History, State Entomologist's Office, Military Science and Physical Training, State Water Survey, State Geological Survey, and the Mine Rescue Station.

The new buildings just completed or in process of construction indicate the great variety of work carried on by the University. Lincoln Hall for the College of Literature and Arts, a Ceramics Building, Transportation Building, Mining Engineering Building, School of Commerce Building, addition to Woman's Building, an Armory and Farmers' Convention Hall, Stock Pavilion, Horticultural Greenhouses, and several new Barns for Dairy, Sheep and Horses.

Fine new fraternity and sorority houses provide excellent homes for students as do the dormitories provided by several of the churches. The Y. M. C. A. has a fine building of its own that is a center of great influence. The Y. W. C. A. will soon have a home of its own immediately across the street from the University.

The University of Illinois is fortunate in the character of its men and women---in its army of loyal alumni and another army of 5000 students, in its faculty of over 600, and in its capable Board of Trustees.



AUDITORIUM
SENIOR BENCH AND LIBRARY

LINCOLN HALL

INTERIOR AUDITORIUM
LIBRARY

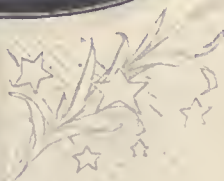




ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING LABORATORY
POWER PLANT

WOODSHOP
ENGINEERING GROUP

ENGINEERING BUILDING





BEEF CATTLE BUILDING
SUNKEN GARDEN
AGRICULTURAL GROUP

HORTICULTURAL BUILDING
GREENHOUSES





FARM MECHANICS BUILDING
SOUTH CAMPUS

DAIRY BARN
AGRONOMY BUILDING





Phi Gamma Delta
Phi Kappa Psi

FRATERNITIES
Phi Delta Theta

Delta Kappa Epsilon
Y. M. C. A.



Triangle
Delta Tau Delta

FRATERNITIES

Sigma Alpha Epsilon

Alpha Tau Omega

Sigma Chi

Kappa Sigma



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